

News

United States
Department
of Labor



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PLS - 3844
FOR RELEASE:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS OF PITTSBURGH, PA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JANUARY 2001

Workers in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area averaged \$16.78 per hour during January 2001, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins reported that white-collar workers averaged \$19.83 per hour and accounted for 54 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$15.33 per hour and represented 26 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 20 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$10.23 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 271 firms representing 520,400 workers in the Pittsburgh, PA metropolitan area, which includes Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania. Eighty-three percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for over 90 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$24.98 per hour; registered nurses, \$20.22; and secretaries, \$14.20. Blue-collar occupations included electricians earning \$19.82 per hour, truck drivers at \$13.34, and stock handlers and baggers at \$8.39. In the service occupations, janitors and cleaners averaged \$11.57 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$9.73; and cooks, \$8.80.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area averaged \$17.94 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.02. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$16.57 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$13.07. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$14.40 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$17.96.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Pittsburgh, PA National Compensation Survey January 2001 (Bulletin 3110-10). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Philadelphia Information Office by calling (215) 597-3282. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Philadelphia by dialing (215) 597-4153 and requesting documents 9795, 9796, 9797, 9798, and 9799.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2001

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$16.78	2.3	\$15.87	2.8	\$21.55	2.8
All excluding sales	17.16	2.2	16.24	2.8	21.62	2.9
White collar	19.83	3.0	18.65	3.7	26.18	3.9
White collar excluding sales	21.01	2.8	19.87	3.5	26.40	4.0
Professional specialty and technical	25.82	3.5	23.82	4.8	33.04	3.1
Professional specialty	26.84	3.5	24.36	5.0	34.19	2.9
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	30.18	5.2	30.18	5.2	—	—
Civil engineers	25.47	7.3	25.47	7.3	—	—
Industrial engineers	26.83	5.2	26.83	5.2	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	36.30	17.2	36.30	17.2	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	24.98	6.9	24.98	6.9	—	—
Natural scientists	25.15	8.4	25.15	8.4	—	—
Health related	21.60	2.4	21.60	2.4	—	—
Registered nurses	20.22	1.4	20.21	1.4	—	—
Pharmacists	29.05	2.6	29.05	2.6	—	—
Physical therapists	27.60	5.7	27.60	5.7	—	—
Therapists, n.e.c.	17.37	17.5	16.78	19.0	—	—
Teachers, college and university	35.23	6.6	33.25	10.2	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	31.54	4.4	16.81	12.0	35.42	3.0
Elementary school teachers	35.16	3.7	—	—	36.94	2.8
Secondary school teachers	36.38	3.6	—	—	36.94	3.5
Teachers, special education	30.08	16.5	17.17	18.6	38.12	3.3
Teachers, n.e.c.	27.09	29.9	—	—	—	—
Substitute teachers	12.29	14.4	—	—	13.23	13.8
Vocational and educational counselors	20.77	18.7	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	23.28	8.5	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	14.88	7.6	13.29	6.6	—	—
Social workers	14.79	8.0	13.05	6.9	—	—
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	25.93	21.0	25.93	21.0	—	—
Editors and reporters	20.76	18.2	20.76	18.2	—	—
Technical	21.87	11.6	22.14	12.4	—	—
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	15.75	6.4	15.75	6.4	—	—
Health record technologists and technicians	16.10	9.0	16.10	9.0	—	—
Radiological technicians	14.26	2.8	14.26	2.8	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	13.76	2.0	13.70	2.2	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	11.18	8.8	11.18	8.8	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	20.95	6.9	—	—	—	—
Drafters	25.58	8.8	25.58	8.8	—	—
Chemical technicians	18.57	1.2	18.63	1.2	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.20	4.0	26.08	4.6	26.95	6.3
Executives, administrators, and managers	29.96	4.9	30.09	5.6	29.34	7.1
Financial managers	26.43	8.1	26.43	8.1	—	—
Personnel and labor relations managers	29.50	15.1	29.50	15.1	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	31.02	8.8	31.02	8.8	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	28.83	9.1	25.37	14.2	30.30	11.9
Managers, medicine and health	26.61	7.4	26.61	7.4	—	—
Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.	18.86	15.9	18.86	15.9	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	35.75	9.0	36.68	9.5	—	—
Management related	19.54	3.6	19.52	3.9	—	—
Accountants and auditors	20.22	6.1	20.16	6.9	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	17.22	5.7	17.22	5.7	—	—
Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	19.71	7.7	19.71	7.7	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	19.00	7.0	19.19	7.4	—	—
Sales	11.43	11.6	11.39	11.9	—	—
Supervisors, sales	21.18	22.1	21.18	22.1	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	12.48	21.9	12.48	21.9	—	—
Cashiers	7.10	6.4	6.62	3.6	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2001 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Administrative support, including clerical	\$12.73	2.6	\$12.60	2.9	\$13.55	4.9
Secretaries	14.20	3.4	13.70	4.1	15.63	5.8
Stenographers	12.79	5.8	—	—	—	—
Receptionists	9.21	6.5	9.21	6.5	—	—
Order clerks	14.31	7.5	14.31	7.5	—	—
Library clerks	9.94	9.8	10.12	9.7	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	10.30	12.0	10.30	12.0	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	12.82	4.3	12.70	4.7	—	—
Billing clerks	11.66	4.5	11.66	4.5	—	—
Telephone operators	14.29	11.5	14.29	11.5	—	—
Dispatchers	11.47	7.2	—	—	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	13.14	6.1	13.14	6.1	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	13.55	10.1	12.66	16.7	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	11.25	8.9	11.25	8.9	—	—
General office clerks	11.62	8.6	10.15	7.8	—	—
Data entry keyers	9.14	3.8	9.14	3.8	—	—
Teachers' aides	9.98	9.9	9.56	17.4	10.17	11.9
Administrative support, n.e.c.	12.55	4.7	12.69	5.2	—	—
Blue collar	15.33	2.6	14.82	2.8	18.08	2.2
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.52	2.5	18.62	2.6	17.46	5.0
Automobile mechanics	17.59	4.9	17.28	6.3	—	—
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	16.13	7.7	—	—	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	18.07	5.6	18.07	5.6	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	19.43	5.2	19.43	5.2	—	—
Carpenters	16.89	7.5	—	—	—	—
Electricians	19.82	8.3	20.24	7.8	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	23.31	6.1	23.47	6.0	—	—
Supervisors, production	19.96	9.7	19.96	9.7	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.73	5.3	13.73	5.3	—	—
Laundering and dry cleaning machine operators	8.80	2.3	8.80	2.3	—	—
Mixing and blending machine operators	16.27	8.4	16.27	8.4	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	13.75	7.8	13.75	7.8	—	—
Welders and cutters	18.22	3.5	18.22	3.5	—	—
Assemblers	10.77	10.4	10.77	10.4	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	14.52	5.7	14.52	5.7	—	—
Transportation and material moving	15.44	5.0	13.23	4.9	18.38	1.8
Truck drivers	13.34	7.2	13.19	7.3	—	—
Bus drivers	17.12	4.7	—	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	13.68	4.8	13.68	4.8	—	—
Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.	16.09	4.3	—	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.07	5.2	11.42	5.2	17.51	8.3
Production helpers	12.79	13.1	12.79	13.1	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	8.39	8.6	8.39	8.6	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	15.50	10.3	15.50	10.3	—	—
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	8.44	9.3	8.44	9.3	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	9.86	7.3	9.86	7.3	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	13.68	7.5	12.94	7.3	—	—
Service	10.23	3.4	9.21	3.6	14.80	6.1
Protective service	14.16	17.1	8.81	13.0	22.25	10.0
Guards and police, except public service	7.97	8.8	7.91	9.3	—	—
Food service	7.07	4.3	6.82	4.4	10.68	4.6
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.20	7.5	4.20	7.5	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	3.54	8.8	3.54	8.8	—	—
Waiters'/Waitresses' assistants	5.54	8.9	5.54	8.9	—	—
Other food service	8.47	3.5	8.24	3.6	10.68	4.6
Supervisors, food preparation and service	10.86	9.5	10.86	9.5	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2001 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Food service—Continued						
Other food service—Continued						
Cooks	\$8.80	5.7	\$8.79	5.8	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	8.37	4.5	8.37	4.5	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	8.06	5.1	7.40	4.5	\$10.74	4.6
Health service	9.58	3.0	9.25	2.9	—	—
Health aides, except nursing	9.29	6.4	9.26	6.4	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.73	2.3	9.24	2.7	—	—
Cleaning and building service	11.29	4.8	10.20	6.2	13.52	3.3
Maids and housemen	8.69	4.5	8.65	4.7	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	11.57	5.3	10.49	7.0	13.53	3.3
Personal service	13.57	13.7	14.15	15.9	—	—
Child care workers, n.e.c.	8.94	13.6	7.83	11.0	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	8.59	12.8	8.59	12.8	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2001

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$17.94	\$9.02	\$18.50	\$15.89	\$16.76	\$17.63
All excluding sales	18.11	9.50	18.71	16.28	17.17	16.70
White collar	21.09	10.86	25.39	18.59	19.83	19.88
White-collar excluding sales	21.74	13.31	26.77	19.64	21.03	—
Professional specialty and technical	26.53	18.30	34.56	22.94	25.82	—
Professional specialty	27.59	19.40	33.65	24.48	26.85	—
Technical	22.54	12.48	38.84	17.33	21.87	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.20	—	—	26.34	26.17	—
Sales	14.25	7.07	8.10	11.84	10.36	—
Administrative support, including clerical	13.25	9.17	14.93	12.20	12.76	—
Blue collar	15.77	7.78	16.57	13.07	15.19	16.94
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.56	—	19.16	17.49	18.53	18.44
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.81	—	15.01	11.76	13.60	—
Transportation and material moving	15.87	9.42	17.09	11.07	15.75	11.80
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	13.00	7.04	13.67	9.32	11.77	—
Service	11.43	6.92	13.51	8.61	10.23	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.4	3.4	3.0	3.4	2.4	9.8
All excluding sales	2.3	3.7	3.0	3.3	2.3	7.7
White collar	3.0	5.2	5.8	3.7	3.1	28.1
White-collar excluding sales	2.8	5.9	5.9	3.3	2.7	—
Professional specialty and technical	3.7	5.1	5.7	4.5	3.5	—
Professional specialty	3.7	5.3	3.5	5.0	3.5	—
Technical	11.9	7.1	24.8	6.2	11.6	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.0	—	—	4.2	4.0	—
Sales	14.5	8.0	13.3	12.7	11.2	—
Administrative support, including clerical	2.5	5.2	4.9	2.9	2.5	—
Blue collar	2.6	4.7	2.8	4.0	2.8	7.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	2.5	—	3.0	3.4	2.8	3.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.1	—	4.8	8.6	5.4	—
Transportation and material moving	4.7	8.7	3.9	7.7	4.7	16.6
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.7	4.6	5.9	5.8	5.3	—
Service	3.9	3.5	5.7	3.7	3.4	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2001**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$15.87	\$14.40	\$16.18	\$14.88	\$17.96
All excluding sales	16.24	14.21	16.66	15.31	18.39
White collar	18.65	17.01	18.91	18.04	19.86
White-collar excluding sales	19.87	17.24	20.23	19.75	20.68
Professional specialty and technical	23.82	21.85	24.00	22.19	25.39
Professional specialty	24.36	23.17	24.46	23.09	25.60
Technical	22.14	—	22.54	18.73	24.80
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.08	22.82	26.66	28.43	23.89
Sales	11.39	16.22	10.10	10.94	7.12
Administrative support, including clerical	12.60	11.69	12.76	12.18	13.31
Blue collar	14.82	15.50	14.60	13.19	17.34
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.62	18.21	18.84	17.49	20.74
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.73	15.48	13.50	12.90	14.47
Transportation and material moving	13.23	12.43	13.61	12.72	16.59
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.42	11.08	11.49	9.78	16.08
Service	9.21	6.33	9.87	8.99	11.27
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	2.8	5.3	3.3	4.5	4.6
All excluding sales	2.8	4.9	3.2	4.3	4.4
White collar	3.7	7.0	4.2	6.1	5.8
White-collar excluding sales	3.5	5.3	3.8	5.3	5.4
Professional specialty and technical	4.8	4.2	5.2	7.0	6.9
Professional specialty	5.0	5.1	5.4	7.9	6.9
Technical	12.4	—	13.3	12.7	18.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.6	6.3	5.2	6.8	6.1
Sales	11.9	25.1	11.4	13.7	6.6
Administrative support, including clerical	2.9	7.0	3.2	5.5	3.5
Blue collar	2.8	5.2	3.4	3.9	4.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	2.6	4.8	3.4	4.8	3.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.3	9.8	5.7	6.3	10.2
Transportation and material moving	4.9	6.4	6.7	6.6	13.0
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.2	11.9	5.8	5.0	5.8
Service	3.6	6.0	4.0	3.1	8.1

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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